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1. A military kommandatura (Voyennaya Komendatura) is set up in towns where troops are stationed, temporarily or permanently, for the preservation of order among service men away from their units. Its organization and functions are set down in the Garrison Duty Manual, Soviet Army. The Town Commander (Voyenniye Komendant) is usually subordinate to the garrison commander. My description of the activities of a kommandatura is based on the Central Military Kommandatura of Moscow

### Organization and Functions

2. The central Moscow Kommandatura was located at 11, First Moshchanskaya Street. The last commander known to me was Brigadier General Kuzma Sinilov, now a Major General. The departments of the Kommandatura were as follows:
- (a) Operations: This department was in charge of operational intelligence and was staffed with counter-intelligence personnel and operational agents.
  - (b) Second Department: -Lt Col Sokolov. The task of this department was the maintenance of order among service men away from their units. It was responsible for the city military patrol service and for the detention of all military personnel violating regulations such as: being out of uniform, drunkenness, disturbance of public order and AWOL. During the Moscow curfew hours, from 2400 until 0600, the patrols apprehended all military personnel found without proper passes issued by the town commander. Drivers violating black-out regulations were also subject to arrest.

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- (c) Officer Personnel Department: Maj Belikov. This department was responsible for staffing the Central and the district kommandaturas of Moscow with the prescribed officer personnel. It was also responsible for transfers of officers and other such personnel matters.
- (d) Enlisted Personnel Department: Responsible for providing the kommandaturas with the necessary enlisted personnel and handling their administrative problems.
- (e) Secret Documents Department: Registry and safeguarding of classified materials.

3. The following supply and service departments of the Central Kommandatura were located on the same street at number 19:

- (a) Food Supply Department: Responsible for issuing meal tickets or food to officers coming to Moscow on leave or duty orders. (The garrison food depot was located at 9 Kalanchovskaya Street.)
- (b) Clothing Supply Department: This department was responsible for supplying clothing to all military personnel employed by the kommandaturas. In emergencies, military personnel on leave or duty orders could also draw clothing from this department. In such cases the proper entry was made in their service books (Sluzhebnaya Knizhka)
- (c) Finance Department: This department was responsible for paying personnel of the kommandaturas and enlisted personnel in emergencies.
- (d) Medical Department: Medical care was given only to regular personnel employed by the kommandaturas.

District Kommandaturas

4. The following district kommandaturas were subordinated to the Central Kommandatura: Molotovsk, Leninski, Kirovsk, Rostokinski, Leningradsk, Otkyabrsk, Dzerzhinski, Zhel'esno-dorozhnyi, Sokolnichesk, Baumanski, Timiryazevsk, Kuibyshevsk, Khimkinski and some others. The functions of the district kommandaturas were limited to carrying out the responsibilities of the Second Department of the Central Kommandatura, namely, the patrolling service. For this purpose the district kommandaturas had the following personnel:

- (a) Commandant
- (b) Deputy Commandant
- (c) Three Assistants, the officers of the day (Dezhurnyi)
- (d) Adjutant
- (e) One or two military investigators
- (f) One driver

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5. Until June 1943 district patrols were provided by the second NKVD division. After this date NKVD troops were only used at city limits check points or at important intersections within the city. Supervision of this service remained the responsibility of the Central Kommandatura. As of June 1943, the military units stationed in the Moscow region detached regular patrolling units which were put under the jurisdiction of the respective district kommandaturas for 24 hours according to a rotation schedule authorized by the Central Kommandatura. The composition of these sections was as follows:

- (a) A detachment commander, usually a sergeant
- (b) An assistant
- (c) Four or five patrolling soldiers
- (d) Three guards to watch the persons arrested

Before assuming duty, patrol personnel were given a thorough briefing on their duties and a detailed itinerary. The senior member had a red band on his sleeve with the letters KP (Komenantski Patrol) in white and a certificate stating that he and his co-workers were members of the command patrol.

6. Duty officers of the district kommandaturas had the authority to decide on the disposal of the arrested personnel. Punishments were administered either by the Kommandatura Commander or by the regular unit commanders. They were always entered on the leave or duty orders. For minor violations, such as failure to salute or entering a bazaar, two hours drill was a common punishment. Drivers violating traffic regulations were either degraded or deprived of their licenses.
7. Almost daily kommandatura patrols, accompanied by an officer, made raids on railroad stations. On such occasions all suspected deserters were arrested. A single district might arrest as many as 50 to 70 deserters in a single month. In many cases, however, such deserters could prove that they had been left behind on a march or during a rail transport and only the most inexperienced deserters were actually punished. As thorough investigations would take too much time, most of these deserters were simply sent back to the front, via the military transfer point, located on Stromynka Street, Sokol'niki. It may be added that periodic round-ups were also carried out by the agencies of the MGB and always proved very successful.
8. All military personnel on leave or duty orders report to the military kommandatura or the Voenkomat immediately after their arrival and before their departure. Corresponding entries were made on the leave or duty orders and serve as proof that the individual has actually gone to his destination.
9. After the war the activity of the military kommandaturas was greatly curtailed. The district kommandaturas were abolished and the Central Kommandatura was reorganized to carry out all the duties performed by them.

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